AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

These replacement paragraphs address the Examiner's concerns, correct errors in the specification and clarify the specification. Applicant submits that no new matter is injected into the application by way of these replacement paragraphs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 5, with the following paragraph:

Closing element 10, which has a working end 11 and a butt end 12, opens and closes hook 21 of hooking element 20 during the warp knitting process. Working end 11 terminates as a blade 15 which operates in groove 25 of stem 22 leaving hook 21 open while the hook 21 is contained in a loop of yarn of the knit (not shown). As hooking element 20 rises within a loop of yarn, closing element 10 also rises in a like manner keeping hook 21 open. Guide bars (not shown) bring a yarn Y over into a position that allows open hook 21 to catch yarn Y. As shown in Figure 2, once yarn Y has been caught by hook 21, closing element 10 is moved forward within groove 25 of stem 22 relative to hooking element 20, where blade 15 of closing element ~~11~~ 10 closes hook 21, so that as the compound needle 2 is pulled downward by the warp knitting machine out of the loop, the closed hook 21 of hooking element 20 pulls the yarn Y with it, while blade 15 of closing element 10 prevents the catching of the loop as the compound needle exits the loop. The yarn Y which is pulled through by the closed compound needle forms the next loop, and the knitting step begins anew.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 14, with the following paragraph:

Interaction between working end 11 of closing element 10 and groove 25 requires precision alignment and movement of both hooking element 20 and closing element 10. The movement of hooking element 20 is controlled by the warp-knitting machine at butt end 23. Similarly, the movement of closing element 10 is controlled by the warp-knitting machine at butt end 12. Many compound needles are ~~use~~ used in just one warp-knitting machine. It is therefore advantageous to group neighbor hooking elements into a multiple hooking element assembly and, likewise, neighboring closing elements into multiple closing element assemblies to increase the efficiency of handling the compound needles. Advantageously, a new assembly of closing elements according to the present invention allows for a more precise construction of the assembly which weighs less than the casting used historically within the industry.